Sunday, May 25, 2008 ★★ 17 sections / Vol. 23 / No. 170 P20 website: www.inquirer.net

Why muscovado is a must these days

Savoring Chef Ed Quimson's slow food that spells the diff between mere dish and delish

Here's where to find natural skin care products, veggie noodles, handmade paper and other good things you know you want

Sunday Inquirer Magazine

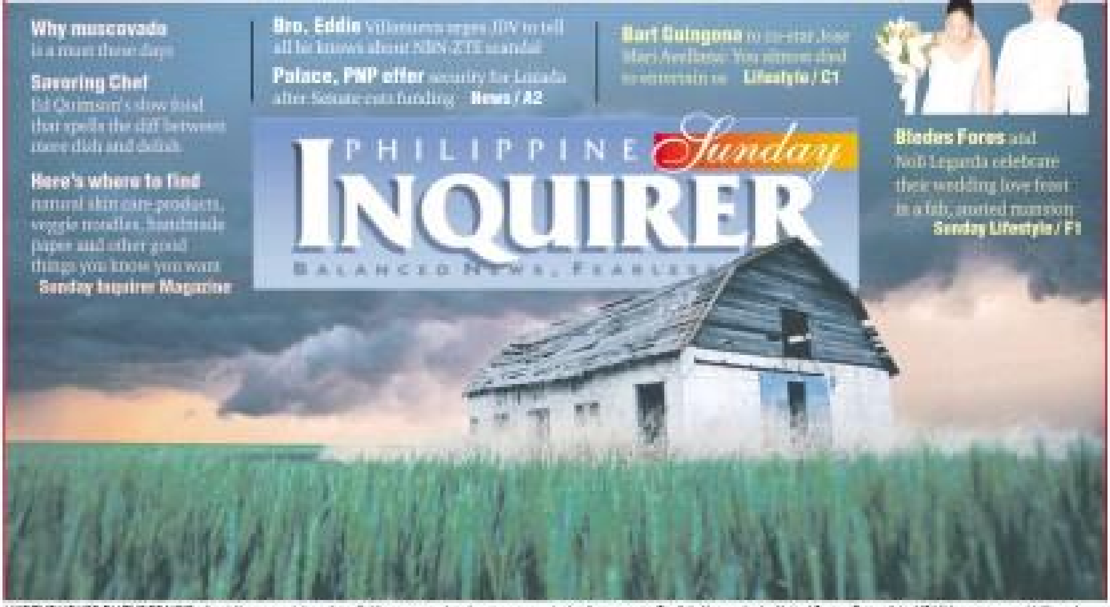
Bro. Eddie Villanueva urges JDV to tell all he knows about NBN-ZTE scandal

Palace, PNP offer security for Lozada after Senate cuts funding News / A2

Bart Guingona to co-star Jose Mari Avellana: You almost died to entertain us Lifestyle / C1

Blodes Fores and Noli Legarda celebrate their wedding love feast in a fab, storied mansion Sunday Lifestyle / F1

PHILIPPINE *Sunday* INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



LIKE THE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE An old barn stands in a wheat field as a severe thunderstorm passes in the distance near Ogallah, Kansas, in the United States. Parts of the US Midwest, some as idyllic and even more picture-perfect than this one, are being plagued by thunderstorms and tornadoes as climate change sweeps the planet. AP

Cheaper power or bust

Solons say Lopez-GSIS clash should lead to reforms, lower rates

By TJ Burgonio and Abigail L. Ho

THE PUBLIC EXPECTS NOTHING LESS THAN LOWER power rates to result from the annual stockholders' meeting of the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) on Tuesday, lawmakers said yesterday.

The election this year of the Meralco board has taken on national significance because of the aggressive campaign of Winston Garcia, the president and general manager of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), to bring about a change in management in the Lopez-led power distribution utility.

"I'm hoping that a fair compromise could be worked out. But at the end of the day, everybody wants lower power rates," said Eddie Pang, Nueva Ecija Rep., who chairs the House committee on legislative franchises.

Senior Deputy Minority Leader Roilo Golez said he expected the boardroom battle between Garcia, who holds the proxies of government financial institutions (GFIs), and Meralco and its proxies on Tuesday to lead to reforms.

"At the end of the day, there will be

CHEAPER/A10



Voter wants Obama tie, and other tidbits

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.—THE man was persistent in demanding Sen. Barack Obama's tie.

"He told me his wife picked it out for him, so he couldn't," said the tie-seeker, Brian Crews, who said he would settle for Obama's new flag pin instead (also a no-go).

A woman in Miami shook Sen.

VOTER/A11

Cyrus, the paraplegic dog, now runs circles 'round the pack

By Tessa R. Salazar

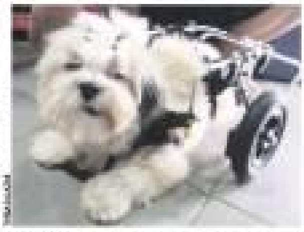
THIS VETERINARY AIDE IS WHAT ONE may call a Good Samaritan for hapless animals.

In this dog-eat-dog world, Joanna Cabasa, 34, has more than once displayed her caring soul as she goes about her job at the Horseshoe clinic in Libis, Quezon City.

Cabasa saved a year-old paraplegic shih tzu named Cyrus from being euthanized, and last week Cyrus received a UK-made dog wheelchair courtesy of British animal welfare advocate Charles Warnaburg.

Correctly fitted to Cyrus' body, the wheelchair is an ergonomically designed saddle support sling made of lightweight stainless steel and two air-pressurized tires.

CYRUS/A11



SNUG FIT Cyrus, the year-old shih tzu born disabled, is now a frisky ball of energy. His UK-made wheelchair is made of light stainless steel and two air-pressurized tires. It costs P26,000.



CAMP CRAME, 1983: Ka Bel and Osang together weather the perfect storms for 50 years.

It started in a taxi for the Beltrans

By TJ Burgonio

THE LOVE AFFAIR OF CRISPIN "Ka Bel" Beltran and Rosario "Ka Osang" Soto began in the unlikeliest place—a taxicab.

It was Nov. 10, 1956. The then 15-year-old Osang had run away from home in Tondo after a spat with her grandmother over cutting classes and, in front of Quiapo Church in Manila, got into the cab driven by Beltran.

Distraught, she told Beltran to just drive on. When they reached Monumento in Caloocan, he stopped the cab and demanded to

IT STARTED/A6

Wish come true: Blogger stays online with new laptop

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

ASIDE FROM BEING A FREELANCE writer and team-building trainer, 27-year-old Roel Andag is a blogger.

Every day he would post an item on his two-year-old blog on careers and his observations about life at www.trainerscall.blogspot.com.

But when his laptop fell and broke in December last year, Andag thought it was the end of his blog. He couldn't write articles or update his website. His computer not only refused to start up, its screen was cracked.

Since then he had been writing his articles by hand. He would retype them using a friend's laptop. And his blog? He would go to Internet cafes to upload new items on his website.

A new laptop computer, he said, would put him back in business.

Last week, the Inquirer made his wish come true.

Andag was one of 22 Inquirer letter-writers chosen to have their wishes granted during the paper's 22nd anniversary last December.

Andag visited the Inquirer office last week to claim his prize, an HP Compaq Presario V3770TV notebook PC with a built-in camera.

Representatives from HP Compaq, cognizant of the wish, were there to personally hand him his new laptop.

"We seem to have chosen the right model for Roel," says HP country general manager Bernadette Nacario. "HP's exciting features should make

WISH COME/A10

Life lessons for 80 kids at Read-Along

By Schatzi Quodala
Inquirer Research

OVER 80 CHILDREN JOINED YESTERDAY's Inquirer Read-Along session and went home with three life lessons: One is never too young to help, one should not judge based on appearance, and a mother's love for her child is unconditional.

The 32nd Read-Along session featured broadcast journalist Karen Davila and returning storyteller Rich Rodriguez of Alitaptap.

Davila read "Ang Sigaw ng Apaw sa Batang Matakaw" by Ainong Medina, published by Lampara, and "Little Raindrops" by Gloria Villaraza-Guzman, published by Adarna.

The first story was about a group of stones that refused to be eaten by a boy because he looked smelly although his heart was pure. The second tale was about a raindrop that was able to help a lot of people despite its teeny size.

Davila said this was her first time to read to so many children although she often reads to her son David, 6, and

READ-ALONG/A10



TRUE BELIEVER It's a key to education, Karen Davila, ABS-CBN broadcast journalist, tells 80 kids at the Inquirer Read-Along on Saturday.

ERRATUM

THROUGH A COMPUTER ERror that went undetected, the second edition of the Inquirer yesterday carried the wrong page in the Opinion section—Page A15 of May 13. Page A15 of the May 24 issue of the Inquirer, which was correctly printed in the first edition, featured the column of DWS' Dr. Mahar Mangahas, and the commentaries of Butch Hernandez and Mileyong Dolalfar. Our deepest apologies to our readers, especially in Metro Manila, where most of the second edition circulates. The contents of the page, however, were uploaded yesterday on Inquirer.net as a matter of course, and remain available online. We are also reprinting the columns of Mangahas and Dolalfar in today's issue. Hernandez's commentary will be reprinted later in the week.

Second FRONT PAGE

Bro. Eddie to JDV: Tell the truth

'Speak out on NBN-ZTE deal if you're serious about moral revolution'

ILOILO CITY—COME out and tell all.

Palace open to free texts, says Remonde

Gov't says it's ready to protect Lozada



PRESIDENT Arroyo jokes with Kampi members and guests as her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, looks on.

Kampi meet on merger, etc., opens with golf

By Christine O. Avendaño

SHE MAY HAVE BEEN GEARED UP TO play golf, but President Macapagal-Arroyo did more than have a friendly game with her party mates on her day-off yesterday.

Wearing a white shirt and brown trousers with a white cap firmly in place, the President opened the golf tournament that her party, the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), had organized by teeing off first.

Her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, also teed off during the opening of the tournament "For Kampi and Friends" at Valley Golf and Country Club in Antipolo City.

Fellowship

But it was not to be all play for the President as part of the day's agenda was to include a "fellowship" with Kampi members that would have them talking about politics, particularly the planned merger between Kampi and the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats.

According to Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, the President's elder son, a merger between Kampi and Lakas was "very possible" now, unlike three months ago.

"Although no official talks are expected, of course it's unavoidable for politicians to discuss politics when they rub elbows with one another," he said.

Mikey said the "resistance" to a Kampi-Lakas merger from both parties was "much softer now than it was three months ago."

More receptive now

"People are more receptive now to a merger," he said.

Asked whether this was because the former Speaker, Pangasinan Rep. Jose de Venecia, was no longer head of Lakas, Mikey declined to comment.

He said party leaders were thinking of a timetable of one year for a merger to happen, "probably because some provinces will be easier to merge than other provinces."

He said it would be a long process because discussions had to be held at the local level to iron out differences there.

The congressman said the President was "not hands-on" on the matter, and had given instructions to Speaker Prospero Nograles to discuss it with the two parties.

So far, there have only been informal discussions, he said.

Sour grapes

Asked about the continued attacks on the President by the Speaker's wife, Gina, Mikey said he hoped the family's erstwhile ally would accept the fact that a majority of the House members had voted to replace her husband.

"With all due respect, she thinks that the speakership is their family-owned corporation. We understand that she was sour graping for a while ... I hope she accepts the fact that 174 congressmen voted for change," said Mikey.

He said his parents were ignoring the criticism.

"My mom is focused on her work and my dad is trying to revitalize his health," Mikey said, noting that yesterday's golf game was just the exercise that his father needed.

Not to mention his mother, who flashed a large grin when the gallery applauded her for a good drive.

RP joins int'l aid pledging session in Burma

By Cynthia D. Balana

Damage and needs assessment

Faithful urged to help

Australia hikes aid to RP

AFP to turn over any suspects in uniform in RCBC rob

By Alcuin Papa



Police eye 2 dismissed bus firm employees

OFW cries rape, seeks aid over cell

No Catholic Mass for 'Ka Bel' in Legazpi

'Sympathizer'

Beltran baptized Catholic

It started in a taxi between its driver and the teener

Jealousy

3 days in his room

Tough test

Daring escape

Sedition, rebellion

Gratitude

Long march, work stoppage to mark Ka Bel's funeral on May 28

Workers' hero

Manila wake

Last wish

Aliens on wait list exempted from kidney ban

By Jeannette I. Andrade

Different sectors

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Soldiers to remain in depressed metro areas—Yano

Palparan finally issued subpoena in libel case


MALINAW NA KAMI PA RIN ANG THE BEST PARA SA INYO.
Thank you for always bringing us into your kitchen.
minola
PREMIUM COCONUT OIL
LAURIC OIL
1 Gallon (3.2 kilos)
5-TIME AWARDEE
TRUSTED
BRAND
2008

Cheaper power or bust; row to result in reforms

'Abusive practices'

Reduce pass-on charges

Live coverage

Omnibus petition

Wait-and-see attitude

Miriam says ABS-CBN out to sabotage bid for ICJ seat

Not fit for SC

Just the facts

UN's judicial organ

Wish come true: Blogger stays online with new laptop

First copy

Inquirer fan, endorser

'Trainer-on-call'

Read-Along: Life lessons learned by 80 kids with Karen, Rich

Reading is key

Rainbows and goats

Lots of stories

Michael V is next

Voter wants Obama tie, and other ...

Drive-by intimacy

Respectful distance



Cyrus, the paraplegic ...

Walked like a seal

Born paralyzed

BIR to pre-audit CY 2007 tax returns

Opinion

Schizoid

Editorial



The last hopeful remedy

Separate Opinion



Isagani A. Cruz

Remember, celebrate, believe

Moments



Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

Agony over Jelac

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban



Hillary's legacy

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

Measuring the OFW advantage

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas



Caveat on politicized clergy

COMMENTARY

Mincong Ordoñez

THEY SAID

Man of war and peace

The INQUIRER is a member of the

PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

TALK of the TOWN



Vanishing stars in Manobo skies

Elders of Matigsalug

Social marker

Eight

Passed on orally

Set up traps

Slowly disappearing

Karaoke

Go back to roots

'Now I can say early Filipinos had knowledge of astronomy'



"Thank You, Lucida!"

Gabby Concepcion
Actor / Real Estate Broker, CA

So The Public May Know the Real TRUTH:

This is in response to Korina Sanchez' Segment on TV Patrol, Bandila and World Tonight dated May 23, 2008 when she maliciously said that our products are FAKE. And that the Glutathione content of VANIDERM and LUCIDA-DS are only 5.4mg and 4.4mg instead of 500mg.

"WE ARE NOT FAKE!"

You may call BFAD Hotline: (02)8070746

Questions:

1. What motivated Ms. Korina Sanchez to broadcast such segment?
2. Why is Ms. Korina Sanchez critizing the billboards of Sen. Loren Legarda?
3. Why Ms. Korina Sanchez comparing Lucida-Ds and Vaniderm against Met Tathione?
4. Who is Dr. Raquel David? Is She the Medical Director of Met Tathione?
5. Is it true that Dr. Raquel David is not a certified Dermatologist?
6. Is Dr. Raquel David the same doctor interviewed last September 16, 2007 at Rated K show discrediting Vaniderm and Lucida-Ds?
7. Who gave the sample for testing for PIPAC?

We, as the exclusive importer and distributor of VANIDERM and LUCIDA see to it that we regularly conduct assay testing on batches that arrive from the USA to make sure that what we market is true in milligram strength as claimed.
We used PIPAC before (see assay) but theinstitution can only read glutathione and vit C but not Alpha Lipoic Acid unlike Adamson University Technology Research and Development Center (AUTRDC) that can read assay of Alpha Lipoic Acid.

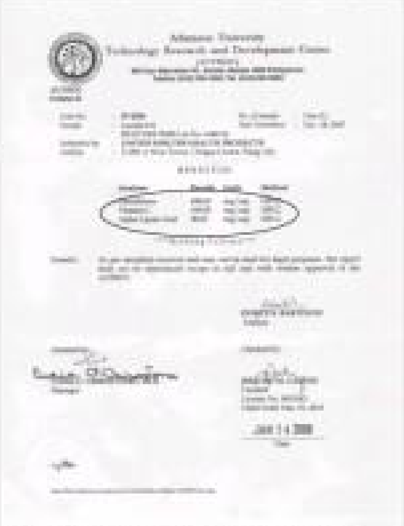
Our legal counsels are getting ready to file charges against Korina Sanchez and Dr Raquel David with her cohorts and so that the truth will prevail!

Rest assured that all VANIDERM and LUCIDA-DS in the Market are 100% pure and genuine.

We are proud to announce that
LUCIDA-DS AND VANIDERM are USFDA and BFAD Certified.



PIPAC



Adamson University
Technology Research and Development Center

USHP Scientific Medical Advisory Board

- Sonia Aznar, MD (Psychiatry), Virginia, USA
- Divina Vera-Cruz Basilio, MD (Dermatology)
- Ed Buenaventura, MD (Family Medicine)
- Daisy Lim Camitan, MD (Dermatology)
- Filipinas Ganchoon, MD (Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation)
- Joseph Manapsal, MD, (Family Medicine)
- Atty. Leo Olarte, MD, (Ortho-Surgery, Medico-Legal)
- Peter Paner, MD (Surgery)
- Maiden Love Reguero, MD (Internal Medicine)
- Miguel Ramos, MD, (Geriatrics)
- Nonoy Zuñiga, MD, (General Practice)

Thank you for making Lucida No. 1!!!

Across the NATION

Guards fail to eject Greenpeace ship



GREENPEACE activists paint "Quit Coal" on the hull of 223-meter ship MV Sam John Spirit standing by to unload its cargo at the Pagbilao coal power plant.

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PAGBILAO, QUEZON—THE SECURITY GUARDS OF THE COAL-fired power plant run by Team Energy Philippines in Barangay Ibabang Polo in Pagbilao, Quezon failed to stop the Rainbow Warrior ship from blocking a coal shipment.

Indefinite stay

Insufficient laws

RCBC Cabuyao branch manager laid to rest



UN exec hopes Esperon will be 'at home' with peace building

Cabinet members hit for erroneous reports

Top students in E. Visayas to enroll in teaching course



READY FOR SCHOOL OPENING

Korean, Filipino traders freed



[illegible]

NFA, church ease up rice distribution

[illegible]

Laguna

[illegible]

Relocation site

[illegible]

INQUIRER Mindanao

Tribal evacuees search for safe haven

GINA AUTAN LAE TO HER SIDE ON A PIECE OF CLOTH spread in one corner of the stage, her hand caressing the red, plump cheeks of her wrapped newborn as she glanced at her four other children, unshod, rolling and running on the cold, concrete floor, their giggles filling and echoing all over the town gymnasium of Compostela.



CHILDREN share a meal in their temporary shelter in the town's gymnasium in Compostela, Compostela Valley, on May 14.

Military presence

Enjoying the scenery and not getting weary of the cost of the ferry

WHEN TRAVELING between Misamis Occidental and Lanao del Norte these days, better enjoy the surrounding scenery than mind the fare of the ferry.

Poetry, politics and political killings

TWO DAYS AFTER A peasant leader was gunned down in front of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) office in Ma-a District in Davao City, a poet's words read before a small gathering of writers, students and teachers in a university came to life, calling attention to political killings in the country and the farmers' age-old struggle for land reform.



FARMERS, colleagues, neighbors and family members of slain leader Celso Pojas carry his casket during a march in the streets of Davao City before burying him at the Davao Memorial Park.


SMART
Buddy
D2 kaya kong magpa-ulan ng text!
ALLTEXT
Ang daming choices!
ALLTEXT 20
P20 = 100 SMART to SMART/TNT
+
10 texts to other networks
Text AT20 to 2827
ALLTEXT 40
P40 = 200 SMART to SMART/TNT
+
20 texts to other networks
Text AT40 to 2827
ALLTEXT 50
P50 = 300 SMART to SMART/TNT
+
30 texts to other networks
Text AT50 to 2827
ALLTEXT UNLI25
P25 = UNLIMITED SMART to SMART/TNT
+
texts to other networks
Text UNLI25 to 258
Ang dami pang matetext...
SMART Buddy
at pati na rin Talk N' Text!
Alam talaga ng SMART Buddy
ang text trip ko! Me na Me talaga!
www.smart.com.ph

Aplus METRO

MUST-SEE IN TAGUIG

Veterans museum honors exploits of Filipino soldiers











"[illegible]" — [illegible], May 2008

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in [illegible] ... for their families. These are their stories.

Collecting shells, skills, memories in New Zealand



[illegible caption]

By [illegible]

IN WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN THE HARDEST decision he ever made, a former teacher chose to give up a stable career in the country in search of a brighter, yet more uncertain prospect in a foreign land.

[illegible]

Hard labors

[illegible]

Collecting shells

[illegible]

Starting over

[illegible]

Finally, a break

[illegible]

Rewarding system

[illegible]

Loyal to native culture

[illegible]



A STATUS SYMBOL for those who make it abroad like Mario, wife Saling and their daughter Sarah is a trip to the Universal Studios in Hollywood, Los Angeles.

Love story of 2 cultures begets 3 kids plus a mag

By [illegible]

[illegible]

Union of 2 diverse cultures

[illegible]

Thinking Filipinos

[illegible]

Hard work pays off

[illegible]

Love story

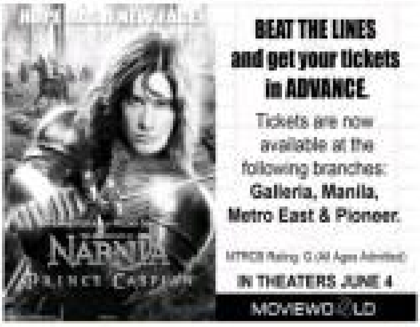
[illegible]

Burma proceeds with vote despite devastation

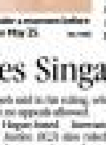


US probe to make perilous landing on Martian arctic

World Court rules Singapore owns isle



Clinton's reference to killing of Robert Kennedy stirs uproar



CLINTON

300 illegal immigrants in US sentenced for fake papers





The WORLD



Russia, China condemn US missile plan

BEIJING—PRESIDENT DMITRI A. MEDVEDEV OF RUSSIA and President Hu Jintao of China met on Friday to conclude a deal on nuclear cooperation and together condemn US proposals for a missile shield in Europe. Both countries called the plan a setback to international trust that was likely to upset the balance of power.

Medvedev's choice of China for an early diplomatic foray as president seemed to signal a desire to continue Moscow's assertive foreign policy—particularly toward the United States—that was a hallmark of his predecessor, Vladimir V. Putin, during his eight years in office.

Medvedev's visit here is the first by a state leader since the May 12 earthquake that has resulted in the deaths of nearly 50,000 people in southwest China, the nation's greatest natural disaster in more than three decades. Russia is among the handful of countries to have sent both aid supplies and rescue teams.

In recent months, both countries have condemned US plans for a missile shield. Russia in particular has long sought allies to act as a bulwark against what Moscow depicts as American global hegemony.

In a statement signed by Medvedev and Hu, the leaders took issue most keenly with plans for a missile defense system "in certain regions of the world," saying such measures "do not support strategic balance and stability, and harm international efforts to control arms and the nonproliferation process."

"It harms the strengthening of trust between states and regional stability," the statement said.

The White House's reaction to the statement was muted. A spokesperson for the National Security Council, Gordon D. Johndroe, noted that on Thursday Medvedev made remarks indicating he remained open to negotiations. A new round of talks involving US and Russian technical experts is expected to begin next month.

"We're having discussions with the Russians in good faith about the sites in the Czech Republic and Poland," Johndroe said. "So we'll see."

The Russian-Chinese statement did not specifically identify the United States, which has angered Russia with plans to deploy elements of a missile defense system in the Czech Republic and Poland. Washington says the shield is a protection against potential attacks by rogue states like Iran and North Korea. NYT

Sunday SPORTS

Teodoro S. Melendres Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa Website: www.inquirer.net/sports



THE BATTLE is heating up between Hapee's do-everything Fil-Am Gabe Norwood (left) and Asia's title-bound Harbour Centre playmaker Jason Castro. The two players are not only MVP frontrunners, they are the spearheads of their respective ballclubs in the PBL championship series. Norwood and Castro were also named to the PBL's Mythical First Team yesterday.

Harbour, Hapee stars dominate Mythical 5

By Jasmine W. Payo

TRECE MARTIRES—QUITE FITTINGLY they split the league's best achievements between them.

Stars from PBL finalists Harbour Centre and Hapee Toothpaste swept the Mythical Team slots with top MVP contenders Jason Castro and Gabe Norwood leading the league's title-clashing five.

The two topnotch guards, along with Hapee aces Mark Barroca and Larry Rodriguez and Batang Pier forward Chad Alonzo, were honored yesterday during the presentation of the third batch of awardees at the Gov. Ayong Maliksi Gym in Cavite.

Castro—the two-time MVP playing back

HARBOUR/A20

Batang Pier level title duel

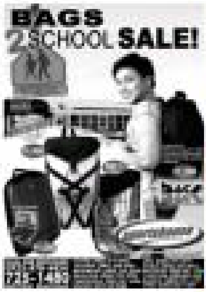
By Jasmine W. Payo

TRECE MARTIRES—JUST LIKE IN THE SERIES opener, Harbour Centre took off only in the third period. But this time, the four-time champions gave Hapee Toothpaste no chance to stage another spirited comeback.

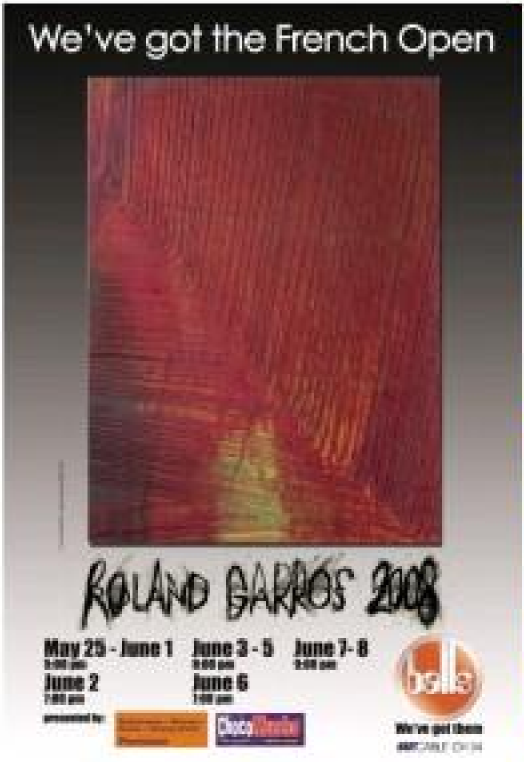
Jason Castro and Jeff Chan put together a dominant performance in the second half as Batang Pier coasted to a 90-81 Game 2 triumph over the Complete Protectors to level the PBL Lipovitan Amino Sports Cup title series yesterday at the Gov. Ayong Maliksi gym in Cavite.

Castro unloaded all his 16 points in the second half, includ-

BATANG/A20







Caguioa lifts Gin Kings past Express



Graceful exit for ABS-CBN

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

Batang Pier…

Harbour, Hapee …

Jaime is PBL's most improved player



Macapagal Youth shootfest slated

Victory Joe heads Binay field



KNOCKOUT MATCHES

Four teams gun for Shakey's V-League title berths today

By Cedelf P. Tupas, Contributor

La Salle XI tops nat'l invitational tourney

By Cedelf P. Tupas, Contributor

Laguna hosts dog show anew

GenSan bets still lead POF



Swimming, judo bets put Zamboanga at 2nd place

By June Navarro

Olympian rushes to swimming head's side



Sharks shoot for victory No. 7 versus Unibikers today

Gonzales tops Subic Open; So places 2nd

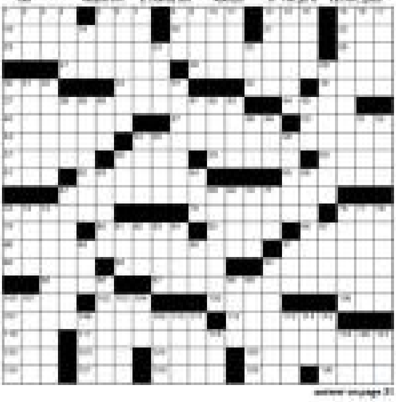


SUBIC—FROM LAST TO FIRST IN less than a month.

Ilocos faces Laguna in Liga Pilipinas pre-season

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — THINK SHOW





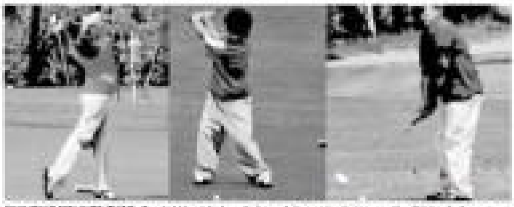
Euro Cup gets going: Solar to air matches

SPORTSWATCH

UST, Adamson forge duel

New Era tryouts

'Salpukan' deadline up



Injured Tiger skips Memorial



WOODS

MERCEDES BENZ MASTERS

Thai overtakes Pucay by 1



Aunzo, 6 RP bets advance in Malaysia golf

Lightning strikes twice for Juan

The PBA Legends Tour: high on nostalgia, low on profit

COMMENTARY

Couples rule Eagle tourney

Lim completes drag race dominance

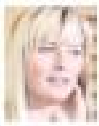


Sunday SPORTS

LA Lakers put Spurs in 0-2 hole



French Open features the fit, the fashionable



SHARAPOVA

Phil 'wedges' way to lead



Sunday Biz
Business Features Editor: Margie Quimpo-Espino

Cocoa: Answer to RP's need for a cash crop?



Exec says in huge potential in country for chocolate's main ingredient

CONFECTIONARY giant Mars Inc. is eyeing the Philippines as supplier of cocoa beans.

Growing global demand

Center of excellence

COCOA B4

Aga Muhlach is Sun Cellular's new endorser

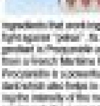


FRANCHISE EXPO 2008 NOW AT ITS NEW HOME



Product Files

Fight "pekas" with Pynocare 40 Actisome



Don't sweat the sun



MAYBANK OPENS LATEST MODEL BRANCH IN MCBD



Bits & Clips

Helping the poor build viable business

TRADERS HOTEL TREATS TOP CLIENTS TO 'AN ENCHANTING EVENING'



Asiatrust Bank offers high yields on time deposits

JCI SENATE PHILIPPINES, INSULAR LIFE LAUNCH 2008 TOFIL AWARD



Developer invites artists and designers in national tilt



Charismatic leadership

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell



Cocoa: Answer to RP's ...



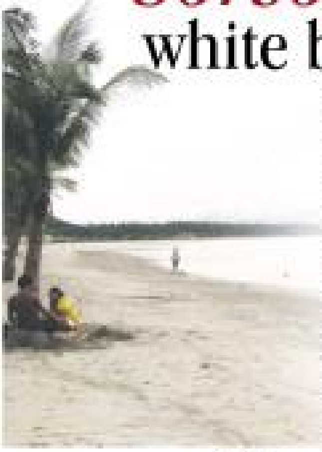
Social entrepreneurship training program set

Sunday **BIZ**

Seashell necklaces from *Sorsogon's* white beach







L[illegible]

A COTTAGE industry was born here after a public school teacher [illegible] project of seashell necklace [illegible] in 1955.

Unleashing entrepreneurship via a challenge

THE PHILIPPINE BUSINESS for Social Progress (PBSP) [illegible] "Philippine BiD Challenge 2008" [illegible]

AMA Computer University Partners with Autodesk Asia

[illegible]

Sunday Biz
Business Features Editor: Margie Quimpo-Espino





It's sunrise once again for Ilocos' golden leaf

Industry was down during last five cropping seasons

Text and photos by Leoncio Balbin Jr.
Inquirer Northern Luzon

CANDON CITY—THANKS to the increase in prices of dried tobacco early this year, the Ilocos tobacco industry has been revived and is well on its way to good health.

"The industry is facing its sunrise again," Estrella de Peralta, acting manager of the National Tobacco Administration (NTA) here, says. The local NTA covers the second congressional district which produces about 30 percent of the province's tobacco harvest and about 60 percent nationwide.

De Peralta said traders bought flue-cured tobacco at prices higher than the agreed floor prices.

The industry went down on its knees in the last five cropping seasons after farmers reported losses from poor buying prices, erratic weather conditions and increasing costs of farm inputs.

It saw rays of hope after local leaders, led by Deputy Speaker Eric Singson and Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano, supported farmers in pushing an increase in the floor prices of tobacco during last year's tripartite meeting among tobacco farmers, cigarette manufacturers and the NTA.

IT'S SUNRISE/ B2-3



A TOBACCO grower in Ilocos Sur waters his Virginia tobacco hoping for a good season.



TRADERS grade the flue-cured tobacco before these are delivered for redrying and processing.



FLUE-CURED Virginia tobacco are being classified according to quality before these are delivered to tobacco redrying and processing plants.

FEATURES IN BRIEF

Palawan vies for business conventions

THE CITY OF PUERTO PRINCESA IN PALAWAN IS NOW A HUB of world-class programs and facilities for the meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE) market, according to Francis Patrick Escovez, vice president of Legend Hotels International Corporation (LHIC).

LHIC has spearheaded the city's MICE industry boom with the construction of The Legend Palawan Convention Center, the first thematic convention center in the island province.

Escovez said that The Legend Palawan (TLP) provides PoD tours for delegates, which allows them to spend quality leisure time to explore the Subterranean River National Park, Honda Bay Islands, or get closer to nature with dolphin-watching and river cruises.

As part of its "unconventional conventions," the hotel also offers themed meetings, outdoor team-building activities and an in-house tour agent that provides hassle-free and personalized services.

The TLP Convention Center has a total floor area of 800 square meters and can accommodate over 1,100 guests in a theater-type setting, and 600 guests in a banquet setting. The main hall can be divided into three individual halls. Apart from its convention center, the hotel also has eight function halls named after Palawan's key resort facilities and historic sights and can accommodate from 20 to 110 people.

Figures for the City Tourism Office showed a total of 154,387 local visitor arrivals, up by 18.4 percent the previous year. The city also welcomed 21,380 foreign travelers, an increase of 22.86 percent from 2007.

The Legend Palawan is a Filipino-owned hotel under the Legend Hotels International Corporation (LHIC). It is the premier accommodation for business and leisure travelers to the capital city.

It is located in Puerto Princesa. For more information, visit www.legendpalawan.com.ph or call Customer Care at 702-3100 local 04.

DHL named most trusted 'Airfreight/Courier Service'

DHL, an express and logistics company, was named Asia's most trusted brand in the "Airfreight/Courier Service" category at the 10th Reader's Digest Asia Trusted Brands Awards. DHL received the Asia Platinum Award for the 4th consecutive year, in addition to three Platinum and five Gold awards received across all seven countries surveyed.

It also won the Platinum award in Hong Kong for the 5th year running, while Singapore was recognized for the 2nd consecutive year. The express logistics company received Gold awards in India, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan and Thailand in the same category.

The prestigious award further strengthened the DHL brand equity as consumers clearly associate the company with attributes that are of utmost importance to them—trustworthiness, credibility, quality, value, understanding their needs and innovation.

Launched in 1999, the Reader's Digest Asia "Trusted Brand Awards" is an annual consumer preference survey that acknowledges outstanding brands as voted by customers. It solicits consumer feedback from the Philippines, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, India, Thailand and Taiwan for 43 product categories and services. Respondents used nominations through questionnaires and telephone interviews.

SCG hosts leadership camp

Siam Cement Group (SCG), a leading commercial and industrial conglomerate in Asia, has selected the first batch of Filipino high school scholars under its "Sharing the Dream" program and gathered them in an overnight leadership camp held at the Development Academy of the Philippines, Tagaytay City early May.

On hand to assist the scholars was Thailand Ambassador H.E. Bahmnet Singhara Na Ayudhaya and SCG executives.

Conducted in partnership with the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), the SCG leadership camp had fun and educational workshops on social interaction, values and leadership designed to hone the scholars' potentials as young leaders. From creative presentations to a collage-making contest, the students learned the importance of teamwork by pooling in their talents.

The camp was capped off by a turnover ceremony attended by the children's parents, whose participation was vital to the success of the program, noted PBSP.

The "Sharing the Dream" scholarship program, formally launched this year, benefits 200 incoming second year high school students in the Batangas, Bulacan and Metro Manila areas where SCG companies operate. The scholarship will cover the scholars' school uniforms, school supplies, allowance, and other miscellaneous expenses for an entire school year.

"The scholarship program is our way of giving back to the communities where we operate and also our way of reiterating our support and commitment to the Philippines," SCG Pipe President Chuwalit Thanyasuk said.

"SCG, one of Thailand's largest business conglomerates, is well known for its commitment to corporate social responsibility," Ambassador Ayudhaya remarked. He expressed his appreciation for the company's emphasis on the importance of education, as well as for its unwavering support for Filipinos.

Japan's arcade industry slumps as Wii takes off

TOKYO—JAPANESE SCHOOLBOYS ULTRAMAN cosplayers an evil enemy during a live performance at a Tokyo games arcade. But Ultraman's real battle is proving much harder—enticing customers back to the nation's arcades.

Japan's $6.5-billion arcade industry has been whacked hard by new advances in gaming, particularly Nintendo Co. Ltd's wildly popular Wii, the latest big craze to compete for the time and pocket money of Japanese kids.

Unlike many countries where the rise of Sony Corp's PlayStation during the 1990s wreaked havoc on the industry, Japan's arcades were more resilient, helped by a greater variety of machines and plentiful foot traffic in crowded cities.

But now some of the biggest chains are shutting many of their outlets.

"Arcades are expensive, noisy and filled with cigarette smoke," said 16-year-old Gene Sato, adding he'd rather save his money to go to a theme park. "Besides, I can stay home and play NBA Live on PlayStation 3." The Wii, launched in late 2006, has introduced innovative games that have players jumping around as they simulate boxing, skiing and other sports.

That has robbed arcades of one important advantage they used to have over home devices—being the best place to play active games such as Konami Corp's dancing hit Dance Dance Revolution, analysts say.

"A large element of the problem is innovation and in Japan, it's pretty clear that Nintendo has been the leader in innovation," said Jay Defibaugh, an analyst at Credit Suisse.

But it's not just the Wii. Industry officials and analysts tick off a long list of culprits.

With widescreen TVs in households across Japan and games with cutting edge graphics and audio standard fare, the traditional video arcade experience can easily be replicated in the home.

Analysts also estimate that the vast majority of Japanese kids own a handheld game player such as a Nintendo DS, or PlayStation Portable.

Even if they don't, games can be played on computers or cellphones. Mobile phones are also blamed for diverting youths away from arcades because a large share of kids' pocket money often goes towards paying cellphone bills.

Others point their fingers at high petrol prices, increased police checks to ensure young teens are not hanging out at arcades too late, and a lack of must-have prizes in one of the arcades' biggest earners—crane machines.

Whatever the reason, Japan's arcade industry is hurting.

Sega Sammy Holdings Inc. plans to close 110 arcades, around one quarter of its outlets, while rival Namco Bandai Holdings has announced that it will close between 50 and 60 stores, or roughly 20 percent of its arcades.



JAPAN'S $6.5-billion arcade industry is being whacked hard by new advances in gaming, particularly Nintendo Co. Ltd.'s wildly popular Wii.

Gloom but no doom

Yet despite the gloomy outlook, industry insiders believe arcades will prosper again if another big trend takes off.

"We need to innovate, especially in the realm of games where people move their bodies," said Jun Higashi, president of Namco Bandai's Namco unit at an arcade expo in Tokyo in February.

"We also need to develop games that can't be played at home." The last big craze, which peaked in 2006, combined video games and card collecting for kids aged around 4 to 8, such as the fighting beetles in the "Mushiking" King of the Beetles game.

The phenomenon drew families into arcades but the small machines have also done well as stand-alones in shopping centers and nearby toy shops.

"Everyone is waiting for the next big thing, though perhaps the biggest problem is they are all probably hoping that somebody else will invent it and haven't made the proper investments," said HSBC analyst Carlos Dimas.

The arcade slump has hurt earnings but most big arcade operators are also diversified companies with big divisions in other areas of the game industry, whether that be toys, software, arcade machines or Japanese pinball "pachinko". Analysts also say the industry traditionally goes through a change when new home consoles, such as Wii, are at the height of their popularity.

But there are concerns that the sector could be hit even harder if the downturn hits the manufacturers of arcade game machines due to a drop in demand for their products.

"Some people in the industry don't think that is a concern any more," said Dimas.

Meanwhile, arcade companies are also trying new tactics and strategies such as the Ultraman live show at Namco Bandai's family-oriented arcade.

Tapping nostalgia, in particular, has become a hot theme as arcades try to attract more adults.

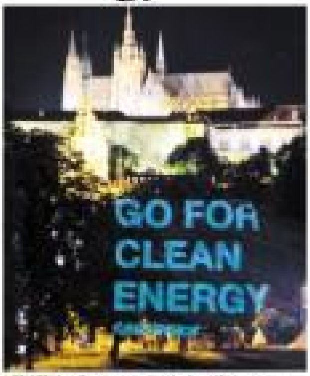
Capcom Co Ltd has launched Street Fighter IV, a new version of a classic fighting game that seeks to bring back old fans and perhaps their kids as well.

Taito Corp, the arcade unit of Square Enix, has revamped its brand design and stores around its iconic Space Invaders alien game.

But Square Enix President Yoichi Wada says the company must do more, inviting non-arcade business people to open a franchised store to help bring in fresh ideas, developing games for couples or even the elderly—all options should be considered, he said. "The industry is at a crossroads. We are going to have to change anyway, so we might as well take the lead." Reuters



Energy hunt turns to straw, wood chips



ACTIVISTS from Greenpeace project the slogan "Go for clean energy" on May 21, 2008 to draw attention to the risk of weakening of European nuclear safety standards in Prague. AP

LONDON—ENERGY companies are turning to waste products including wood chips, sawdust and straw to produce light and heat, as soaring oil prices and new climate policies penalize fossil fuels and favor renewables.

Some alternative sources of energy have had a bad press recently, especially as biofuels, meant to replace gasoline, have helped stoke food prices because they are derived from agricultural crops like corn.

But soaring oil and gas prices continue to drive a hunt for alternatives, and perhaps the oldest energy source of all—wood and solid agricultural waste called biomass—is gaining popularity.

Climate policies especially favor biomass in the European Union, which aims to get a fifth of all its energy from renewable sources by 2020.

"All of the legislative instruments are pointing toward making it a nice place to do business for the long term," said David Williams, managing director of UK-based Eco2, which is planning five straw-fired biomass plants powering 250,000 homes or more from 2011.

Burning biomass has a smaller climate impact

These 300 million-pound ($579.8 million) plants would burn one quarter of Britain's surplus straw, currently ploughed into the ground, and depend on proposed changes in government support, currently under legislative debate, to raise by half again their quota of tradable renewable obligation certificates (ROCs).

That would almost double revenues per unit of each electricity compared to conventional power and lift annual return on investment in British biomass plants to about 15 percent from 6 percent now, said Williams.

"It brings burning biomass well and truly into commercial investment." Such support policies have the effect of raising electricity prices slightly for everyone.

In addition to such stand-alone plants, all European coal plants face a big hike in penalties on carbon emissions from 2013 under the EU's emissions trading scheme (ETS), and as a result they are exploring "co-firing" options burning biomass alongside coal.

Britain's biggest coal-fired power plant Drax said on Monday it was planning 900 megawatt (MW) biomass power generation by 2011.

"It's commercially viable because of the EU ETS and ROCs," Drax head of environment Nigel Burdett told Reuters.

In the United States, optimism is more grounded on the prospects for more supportive climate policies under a new US administration from next year, as well as soaring oil and gas prices, said US-based Inenergy, founded in 2004.

"The perception is that it is more expensive than traditional fossil fuels and that has lower oil," said chief executive John Keppler. "Depending on the region we're in, we typically are able to price about 10 to 15 percent below the avoided cost of fossil fuels."

Like Eco2, Inenergy has big plans from a handful of plants now, and is targeting especially steam and heat production for industrial processes rather than electricity generation.

A potentially serious stumbling block for the biomass sector, however, is a highly fragmented fuel delivery system—especially relying on trucks—compared to, say, coal trains or gas pipelines.

For example, local residents have qualms about the traffic impact of Eco2's plans. The company estimates each of its planned 40 MW power plants will need 100 truck "movements" per day or one every 15 minutes, to deliver an annual 240,000 tons of straw.

Burning biomass has a smaller climate impact because it only returns to the atmosphere the planet-warming gas carbon dioxide which trees and plants themselves absorbed in the recent past, and not millions of years ago as in the case of fossil fuels. Reuters

It's sunrise once again for Ilocos' golden leaf

From page B1

The participants agreed to increase the buying price of Class AA tobacco from P62 to P67 a kilogram and of other grades by P4.50 a kilogram. It was the biggest increase that encouraged tobacco growers to explore and raise production.

"Had there been no substantial increase in prices, we were firm on asking our farmers not to plant tobacco anymore," Singson says. He adds growers were bent on shifting to other crops, such as corn and vegetables, to improve their income.

Efraim Dayag, WB Candon supervisor, says the delivery of flue-cured tobacco to trading centers in the province was delayed this year as farmers had to plant more beyond the usual cropping schedule.

Dayag says only a few deliveries were reported to local trading centers in mid-February, which he described as unusual since trading usually peaked then.

"We had to rush in planting additional tobacco because of the good prices," says farmer Crisanto Gapasin.





A PARTICIPANT of the Tobacco Festival's street dancing competition carries flue-cured tobacco as his group performs along the main thoroughfares of Candon City (above).
In Ilocos Sur, tobacco plantations are virtual playgrounds for children who would hunt insects hidden among leaves (right).

It was only in mid-March that the bulk of tobacco was sold. As expected, the flue-cured tobacco was sold high. Prices were steady and some high-grade leaves were bought at rates above the set floor prices.

Class AA tobacco leaves, pegged at P62 a kilogram, were bought for as much as P71 a kilogram. Even the lower grades were bought at higher prices.

By the time Candon celebrated its Tobacco Festival in late March, the farmers were given assurances of a good tobacco season. "They were able to pay most of their debts and loans. At least I've had something to celebrate about," Dayag says.

Candon is called the "tobacco capital" of the country, being the biggest producer of Virginia tobacco.

During the festival, the city government paraded a 100.6-meter rolled tobacco, which weighed more than 300 kg. The cigar piece was rolled by 10 people who took two weeks to complete the task.

By the time the festival was over, growers had set their eyes on the next cropping season, hoping that the Ilocos' prized golden leaf would pull them out of the economic woods.

Sunday BIZ



DECORATED kanggas during the street parade of the Kangga Festival in the municipality of Mogpog, Marinduque

Mogpog hopes the Kangga Festival will bring in more tourists



Saying thank you for the bounty

'Kangga' showcased in Marinduque fest that pays tribute to the farmers



Text and photos by Gerald Gene R. Querubin
Inquirer Southern Luzon

MOGPOG TOWN AT THE northwestern part of Marinduque province held its annual Kangga Festival recently in honor of the patron saint of farmers, San Isidro de Labrador.

[illegible]



THE FEAST is a thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest.

Helping improve each other's lives

Text and photos by Vicente Labro
Inquirer Visayas

[illegible]



VEGETABLES and other food items abound in the Barangay Bagsakan

Sunday LifeStyle
Editor: Thelma Sioson San Juan


THE AUTHOR (right) and co-star Jose Mari Avellana in Rep's "Tuesdays With Morrie"

'You almost died to entertain us'

By Bart Guingona
Contributor

My co-actor Jose Mari Avellana nearly expires—onstage

YOU KNOW HOW SOMEtimes you have an experience of singular intensity that it threatens to change you forever?

Last Sunday I had that experience. My costar in the Repertory Philippines production of the [illegible] play "Tuesdays With Morrie" collapsed onstage just as he was about to take his curtain call.

In full view of a full house, I ran to where he lay and found him stiff as a board, eyes glazed and delirious. I was horrified. I thought the worst had happened. I thought he was gone.

[illegible]

Grueling

[illegible]

Confident

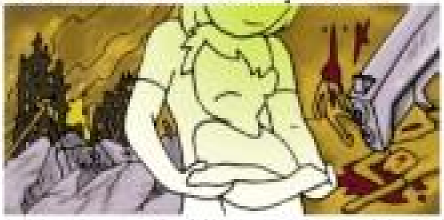
[illegible]

Next C4

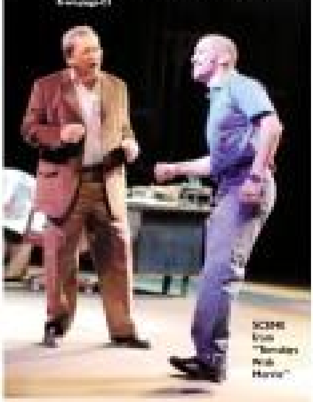


Positive role model can help a child weather any storm

ROOTS AND WINGS
Carly Bebao-Gabolla



'You almost died to entertain us'



SCENE from "Tuesdays With Morrie"

Insanity

Semi-happy ending

Grand exhibit marks Ikebana International Cebu chapter's 38th anniversary

CEBU CEBU
Jaime Picornell



Well-attended affair















BENCAB EXHIBIT

Listen to the music by the masters

GOINGS ON

Bikini showdown

Father's Day sale

Get berry luscious lips

Sun treat

Sale at LRI

Mall anniversary

Promo winner

RP presents water management studies in Expo Zaragoza

[illegible]

Travel Briefs

[illegible]

Premium weekend escapade

[illegible]

New hotel in Makati

[illegible]

Luxurious getaways

[illegible]



SPANISH Ambassador to the Philippines [illegible] with Filipo, the [illegible] mascot

[illegible]



Ready for the Pyramids?

The "Wonders of Time" campaign brings you to ancient Egypt

[illegible]

Free trips

[illegible]

19th-century images

[illegible]

Tombs fit for kings

[illegible]

Pyramid builders

[illegible]

Saving face

The lengths to which I will go for it



By Gibbs Cadiz

IN THE CASE OF MY FACE, TIME has won. My long-held pose of vested nonchalance—I just won't do any more, what with the fine lines of fine lines, crow's feet, dark spots, blemishes and—horrors!—teeth that now greet me on the mirror every day.

But of course. By September this year, I'd be two years shy of the big Four-O. What did I expect?

Still, I find fabulous these days the lengths to which I try to hold on to whatever is left of my youthful skin.

This wasn't always the case. Until my mid-20s I had subsisted on only one cleansing regimen for my face: Safeguard. Grew up with it, brought the habit to Manila when I came here, saw that it worked even better against the grit and grime of city life.

For a few years, at least, I never worried about the condition of my face. The flesh-colored, kidney-shaped soap with the ambergris smell guaranteed that I presented a clean, fresh look every morning.

Bravado

It was one more thing, I thought, that made me a different sort of gay guy: never into fashion, beauty pageants, home decorating, and, yes, cosmetics.

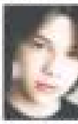
I had friends who obsessed over their beauty products and routines. I got by with the most ordinary bar of soap. Dumbo, I mocked them. I'm so fresh compared to all of you. Which, of course, just had them bursting into laughter.

Ah, the bravado of youth.

I can't pinpoint exactly when my facial constitution began to change. When I noticed my face becoming oily, I cried Bakasol—the "Fair Mood"

SAVING C3

Young American actor to visit Philippine Leprosy Mission



Leprosy curable

Purely Personal

Josephine Darang



Glorious celebration

Breakfast with monks

Museum



Camarin of the Virgin

St. Padre Pio

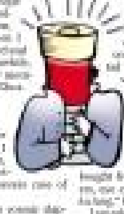
Discover and Nurture Your Child's Promise at the Promil Pre-School Nurture Camp







Saving face



Slapdown

Bangkok finds

Put limes into good use





D.I.Y.

[illegible]



Recipe for Mojito

[illegible]





Mayet and Anthony Villarosa couldn't resist buying a house that reeked of a decadent decade





BEFORE and after: The Villarosa family's Asian minimalist home as it appears now (above and left), and then. Eggshell white walls and big, wood-framed glass windows have replaced peach-colored exteriors and steel-cased windows.

From the crazy '80s to Asian minimalist



ONE of the dining area's focal points is this chandelier made of capiz shells and cascading lights by Shell Craft.



MAYET Villarosa cloaked the angular stairs' wood balusters in favor of thick sheets of tempered glass.



THIS old diaphragm made of carabao hide imparts a homey touch to a hall on the second floor.

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Joseph Agcaoili

WHEN IT COMES TO HOUSES, Mayet and Anthony Villarosa are partial to modern Asian designs with clean, symmetrical lines, white walls and minimalist interiors that complement their busy, no-frills lifestyle.

[illegible]

Bringing the outside in

[illegible]



MAYET's table setting features some of the dishes she herself prepared during their recent luncheon.



HER Spaghetti Integrale Mediterranean consists of pasta, salmon and raisins in a tomato, butter and cream-based sauce.

[illegible]

Precious hardwood

[illegible]



MAYET Villarosa (second from right) hosting lunch at home with friends, from left, Joyce Santos, Shelly Mojica, Margot Pefia, Ester Capisple



TO COMPENSATE for the seeming lack of details, Mayet employs soft elements as a lemon yellow sofa set and an area rug made of leather strips to give the living room some warmth.



THE ANAL-FILED lanai has become a favorite venue for parties the Villarosa couple regularly host.



Sunday LifeStyle

Basking in Australia's Gold Coast





It was a perfect time for the kids to learn surfing

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

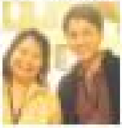






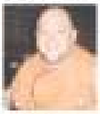












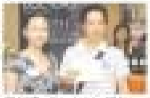


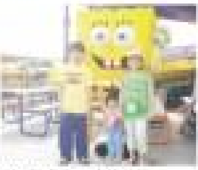
Basking in Australia's Gold Coast



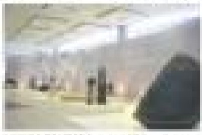
Manila FAME

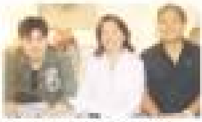
Foodies at heart





















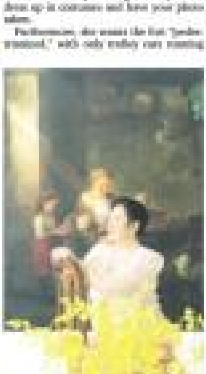
Hail the coming hotel boom

T'nT Trends & Trendings



Anton San Diego

All this hubbub is good news for our economy







Judai's New LUV

www.locknlock.com



Starting as a little girl, Judai [illegible] has turned out to be a daily [illegible] but one who still retains her simplicity and down-to-earth nature. That's because Judai is mindful of her body's health and figure. She is now very careful with the kind of food she eats and gives importance to a healthy diet. Her new companion in fitness? Lock & Lock!

Since Judai started using Lock & Lock, it has been easier for the actress to maintain her diet and look fit all the time. She can put almost every type of food in Lock & Lock containers - from soups to vegetables - because of its unique air-tight seal and double lock feature that ensures no spills and no leaks. In addition to that, Lock & Lock containers keep the freshness and warmth of Judai's meals longer than other brands. It is also very convenient to use for whole-day taping and shooting sessions because Lock & Lock containers come in various sizes and shapes. Indeed, Lock & Lock is Judai's new buddy that tags along with her from morning till the break of dawn.

She recalls how Lock & Lock has helped her in her early days as a culinary student where every meal had to be prepared nicely and where freshness and taste really mattered. She was also surprised to find out that a lot of her co-students and mentors used Lock & Lock!

Because Lock & Lock food keepers have divisions and are "stackable", it helps organize food and maintain its quality bringing out the culinary delight of every dish. They also help maintain cleanliness in the kitchen as well as locking in freshness of food!

When it comes to [illegible] for her special someone, Ryan, she takes extra effort to cook for him and bring him meals at taping sessions or even at home. She also shares this hobby with Ryan's mom, who actually uses Lock & Lock in her kitchen. One of the things that make this would-be in-laws prefer Lock & Lock is that it helps organize foodstuffs. It helps them cook more efficiently because everything is prepared and in place.

In addition to that, Lock & Lock also features water bottles and jugs that are leak-free and trendy to carry wherever you go. The containers come in stainless and plastic materials that are high in quality and very durable.

That's why for this coming school year, Judai recommends Lock & Lock to her home-maker friends, her nieces and nephews because it's the perfect lunch kit for every kid and teen. Not only does it come in different sizes and shapes, it's also trendy and will surely fit the healthy lifestyle and taste of youngsters of this generation.











Lock & Lock Aqua is easy to grip. It's slim profile makes it a space-saver.



Lock & Lock Aqua makes sure your water stays clean, safe, and great-tasting.





Sunday LifeStyle





THE COUPLE on the way out of the chapel under a shower of white ... The bride's eye-catching ... bouquet was ... by Margarita Fores.



THE FANTASTIC swimming pool decorated with trees, gardens and topiaries by Margarita Fores.

NOLI LEGARDA-BLEDES FORES

Beautiful wedding set in a fabulous mansion

By Maurice Arcache
Photos by Ahlo van Hagen

OVER SIX HUNDRED CLOSE friends and family members gathered to celebrate the wedding of sultry beauty Bledes Araneta Fores to finance whiz Noli Legarda, son of illustrious Benjamin Cabrera Legarda and Mirada Caramdang.

At the Immaculate Conception Church, their entourage walked down the aisle under a canopy of Yeel Fereral' gorgeous white Phalaenopsis orchids and lead ... Bledes looked radiant and elegant as always in ... absolutely stunning wedding gown. From the moment Bledes walked to the altar accompanied by her father, the esteemed Dr. Raul G. Fores, to the pronouncement of the couple as "man and wife" to the [illegible], believe me, it was nothing [illegible], ...

My favorite part of the wedding was when Noli gave his wife a hot kiss that made the guests ... cheer and applaud with approval, making the church chandeliers shake and rattle. Then Bledes gave her husband a long, loving hug which the guests also applauded.

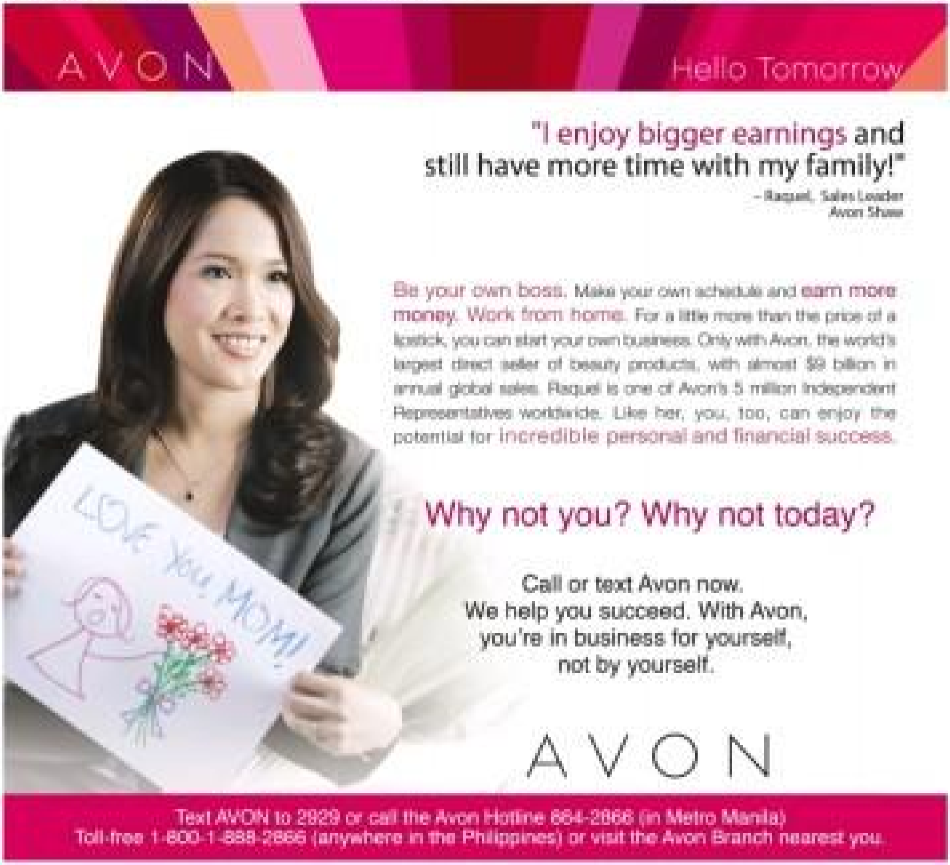
Grand setting

A grand reception followed at the Araneta [illegible] mansion fondly known as "Bahay na Puti" in Cubao. The mansion has been the setting for fabulous parties since the time of Bledes' grandparents, Don Amando and Doña Araneta, her parents.

MANSION, F2









ILLUSTRIOUS Lagarda family. From left: RJ Lagarda, Jose Lagarda, Ria Lagarda, AC Lagarda Ocampo, Bledes and Neil Lagarda, Minda Caracobeng Lagarda, flower girl Bianca Ocampo, Benjamin Lagarda, son of Miguel Ocampo, Miguel Ocampo and Nicole Fores

Beautiful wedding set in a fabulous mansion

From page F1

world traveler Baby Araneta and Dr. Raul Fores, and aunts and uncles Judy Araneta-Roxas and Gerry Roxas, and Jorge "Nene" Araneta and Stella Marquez de Araneta.

The house foyer was decorated with white blooms by the bride's sister, multi-faceted talented restaurateur and florist, Margarita Fores. As we lounged in to the cocktail areas in the front patio garden, it was clear that this gathering was a celebration not only of Bledes and Neil's union, but also of old-world elegance and gentility that we are hardly able to enjoy these days, dahlings.

Margarita Fores' genius in catering was evident in the beautiful tabletop arrangements. The buffet tables were an unforgettable sight. Orchids, ferns, driftwood and [illegible] greens were created by Margarita into works of art. These were complemented by Cibo's superbly prepared antipasti, Italian salumi, Spanish jamon, manchego cheeses and all their accoutrements. Homemade specialties such as "Mama's" (the late Doña [illegible]'s nickname) Roast Beef, the red beans [illegible] and turkey served side by side with U.S. lamb carving, ice bars and specialty pastas, plus chilled seafood bar, which proved to be a favorite among the hip younger set, were enjoyed by the chi-chi crowd, puhleeze.

As Bledes and Neil entered the main hall for dinner, she placed her fragrant magnolia bouquet under the portrait of her beloved Mom. This signaled the beginning of dinner while Romy Posadas played piano. He was later joined by [illegible], who sang Frank Sinatra favorites as the couple made the ceremonial cutting of the cake. The wedding cake was created by no other than Heny Sison. It was a single large sugar peony bloom with a traditional fruit cake [illegible], sitting atop an antique brass and marble coffee table in the house's formal living room, dahlings.

Rock and roll

Then the wedding got to really rock and roll with the [illegible] band, who performed the couple's favorite 70s and 80s disco, followed by the music of super DJ [illegible]. The dance floor was always full till way past 2:30 a.m. It was fun-fun-fun!

For giveaways, Bledes and Neil had sterling silver monogrammed key rings in white leatherbound [illegible] boxes. Guests also received commemorative postcards featuring black-and-white shots of some of the wedding receptions hosted by their families at "Bahay na Puti", a magnificent setting which Margarita so meticulously recreated for her sister's most memorable day.

And as always, dahlings, if it's a superbly organized wedding you're after, get the best team like Bridesmaid & Co., Mabel Climaco and Leah Sanchez. Well done, gals!

The wedding was indeed a reunion of the [illegible] of the family and some of Manila's most prominent and glamorous people, different generations gathering together to celebrate the new life of this absolutely adorable couple, Bledes and Neil.

Cheers, palangga. May your beautiful love last forever.



THE STUNNINGLY gorgeous wedding gown designed by the Prince of Alta Moda, no less - Inno Sotto



DR. RAUL G. Fores, Bledes Fores and Baby Fores



MEME Quimson, Judy Roxas, Marielei Mabanta, Gretchen Cojuangco, Claudia Cojuangco, Joanne Benitez



SONGBIRDS Marcos, Rosanna Fores, Monica and Inigo Zobel



JUDY Roxas, Jorge "Nene" Araneta



RIA Gonzalez Lagarda, Anna Gonzalez Tuason and Tina Arnaldo Cruz



THE GLAM SET: Joanne de Asis Benitez with Sen. Loren Legarda, Monica Cuenca(?) Zobel, Carol Medina Garcia and Marcia [illegible] Soriano



STEPHANIE Hagedorn and interior designer Anton Mendoza



MERCEDES Fores, Erica Marcos, Pia Ojeda



THE BEAUTIFUL and simple Peony-shaped wedding cake made by the bride's sister, Margarita Fores



ALFONSO Fores, Rosanna Fores, Jose Fores, Vivian Fores, Dr. Raul G. Fores, Bledes Fores, Oyo Fores, Raul Fores, Baby Fores, Mabes Fores, Amado Fores and Margarita Fores. Front row: Lorenzo, Mercedes and Jose Fores



THE GROOM Neil Lagarda takes his mother, Minda Caracobeng Lagarda, for his second dance.



MAURICE A. [illegible], Liliana Marquez, Vicky Zubiri and Stella Araneta



LOREN Legarda, Mar Roxas, Ria Ojeda, Gio Ojeda and Ana Ojeda



NEIL Lagarda, Lisa & Anton Periquet, Bobbie Araneta, Victor Panlilio(?), Joanne Gaggio Duarte, Bledes Fores, Apa Ongpin, Miguel Gaggio and date, and Melissa [illegible]



CECILE [illegible] and Marga [illegible]. Standing: Nena Araneta Fores, award-winning actress Maribel Romero(?), Marcelle Montecer and Karen Tuason Soltario



THE NEW GUARDS. Standing: Bambi Ongpeng with Chay Cojuangco, the couple, Maureen Santiago, Chito Melo Rey, Bong Bong Marcos, Johnny Velasquez and Cooboy Tuason. Seated: Samantha Ebaque with Edree Cruz, Bettina Araneta Abello and Carlos Ricardo



FROM left: Luigi Yulo, Vicky Montelibano, Mar Roxas, Kristine Ferrales(?), Vivian Araneta, Pepe Cuenca, Butch Araneta, Tessie [illegible], Frank Rivera(?), Ria Ojeda, Anna Yulo, Elsie Yulo, Joja Quirino, Mavi C. Yulo. Seated: Martin Gomez, Carlonza Lopa, Carina Rubio, Dina Rivera and Bam Quirino



Dinner, drinks and belly dancing

Text by [illegible]
Photos by [illegible]

LIVEN UP YOUR WEDNESDAY nights and be enthralled by pretty women gyrating to the accompaniment of exotic music as Bollywood Bistro Bar brings back its Belly Dancing Nights starting at 8:30 p.m. every other Wednesday.

[illegible]



Crab Coconut Curry

[illegible]

Specialty offerings

[illegible]

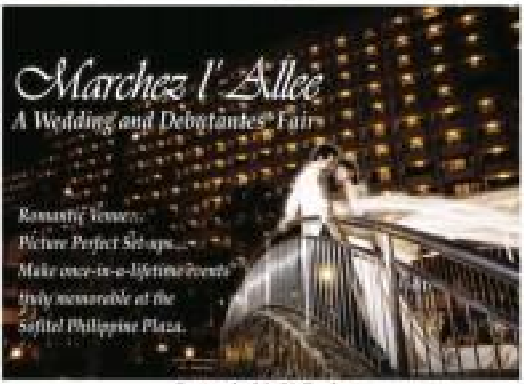


LALA [illegible] (center) and her "snake dancers" [illegible]

BOLLYWOOD'S [illegible]

Bollywood Bistro Bar brings back a hit concept





Come to the fair this Sunday
May 25, 2008 Harbor Garden Tent

[illegible]

SOFITEL PHILIPPINE PLAZA MANILA



LADAGA-SALES

[illegible]



PARASH-[illegible]

[illegible]

Milestones

[illegible]



FABRIC and vessels are among Rajo Laurel's inspirations for his cakes.

Red Ribbon offers beautiful designer cakes for budget-conscious brides-to-be



FREDERICK Peralta believes that even the simplest cake can look expensive with the right design.

Rajo Laurel and Frederick Peralta design—cakes

[illegible]



CAKE design by Rajo Laurel

Challenge

[illegible]



PERALTA'S "Sophisticake" includes rosettes of big roses.

Thrilled

[illegible]

Do I have to support my stepmom and her 2 kids?

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Abrera



[illegible]

Torch-sword parade for a memorable wedding

[illegible]

Sunny way to great taste and Pinoy flavors

Viaje del Sol consists of unique shops and restos in Laguna, Batangas and Quezon



CANDLELIT SETTING. The setting consists of ... Casa Rap's ... wooden plate, a candleholder for the ... lamp. The meal is an organic salad of fresh lettuce, pecans, cherry tomatoes, blue ternate flowers. Casa Rap's signature ... and prawns cooked with coconut milk and adorned with edible ferns.

By Margie C. Enriquez
Contributor
Photos by Jo Diaz

VIAJE DEL SOL OR THE WAY of the Sun is a wonderland of awesome natural vistas, healing hot springs, artisan workshops, lush gardens, water sports, charming vestiges of Spanish colonial culture and gratifying Southern Tagalog cuisine. A playground for itchy feet and a haven for foodies, the destinations reward visitors who venture here with heart-warming hospitality in a bucolic ambience.

Viaje del Sol consists of unique tourist spots in Laguna, Quezon and Batangas. Along the way, we checked out a couple of the region's finds.

Casa Rap

A café, greenhouse, organic garden and a shop, Casa Rap's charm lies in its rustic country look made eclectic by the individual style of Emma Alday, a former ... and environmentalist and her sister, ...

The café is an assemblage of ... woods as architectural supports, exposed roughhewn wood beams, open rafters, and wooden floors made from ... collected by Alday.

Alday and ... were active in environmental advocacy and wanted to set up a nature clearing house to tackle the aggravating pollution in their hometown, San Jose, Batangas. A few years ago, Alday was forced to slow down after two ... operations. With the cooperation of her siblings, Alday established Casa Rap.

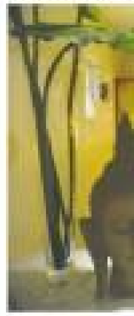
"Everything just fitted into our foundation's original plan of setting up a clearing house," Alday said. "But it had to be self-sustaining so it couldn't just be an office. We built a house with a dormitory, kitchen and mini-art gallery, a ... room for the residents ... the highway and put four small tables for breakfast and snacks."

"We did not want it to look like an ordinary ... destination or a boring information office. We wanted to develop a place where one could feel and touch the beautiful ...

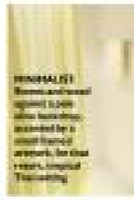
SUNNY/ S4



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE. Cool blue light against a white palette brings the sea and the sky into the room, giving it a soothing fresh look.



CULINARY FANTASY. Wing... display glass cabinets, also g...



MINIMALIST. Rooms and wood against a pale... wall... Thai setting

It's Thai with a twist



CALM AND MULTIFUNCTIONAL. This is hallway makes a glamor statement out of a plain wall. The space also serves as study or work area, at the same time showcasing the family's collection from travels abroad.



BANGKOK SPA. Mirror and indirect lighting set off the modern tropical setup of bathroom made of marble, glass and wood.



MIRRORS. Side table with wood finish doubles as dresser, the scalloped mirror in silver reminiscent of old elegant Thai decor of the past.

Text by Anna A. Jandoca
Photos by Chito Medina

You live on the fast lane —yet want quality life at end of day. This is how to bring soothing holistic elements into your home

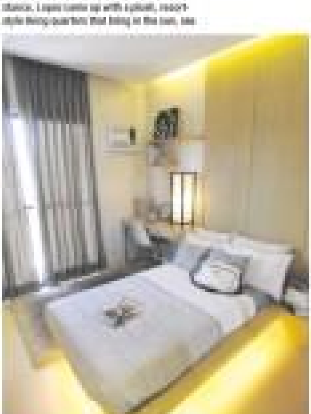
FINALLY an environment that nurtures the soul, calms the mind and relaxes the body. The time-honored holistic elements of Thai lifestyle and craftsmanship, once reserved for royalty, have now been recreated to suit the complex demands of modern Filipino living. Royal Palm Residences is a Thai-inspired mid-rise condominium community in Taguig City.

Designed to strike a balance between work and play, Royal Palm Residences by DMCI Homes aims to bring quality life back to those living on the fast lane. The one-hectare spread is devoted to amenities and luxurious details — from the grand entrance to the grand clubhouse, from the sauna to the theme gardens—that encourage residents to stop and smell the flowers.

The aspect: Thai elements of balance, harmony and wellness are now melded in one tropical resort village community, where cherished traditions complement the modern life.

Home design was also conceived to bring the serene exterior inside as interior designer Wilmer E. Lopez gracefully combines contemporary style with Thai sensibilities. The home becomes a cozy nest for relaxation and entertainment.

In the two-bedroom, 50-sqm unit, for instance, Lopez came up with a plush, resort-style living quarters that bring in the sun, sea



BACHELOR'S DEN. Black, white, cool and neutral colors and light wood draw inspiration from Thai spas. Structural elements such as shelves define a corner.



and air of a coveted beachfront lifestyle. The four-poster bed in distressed wood gives the master's bedroom a romantic appeal.

"This is designed with a young couple in mind so it has that 'lovely and always' theme," said Lopez.

The sense of adventure of the outdoors is recreated in the son's bedroom, with a suspended bed amid a soothing blue-color lighting theme. Reinforcing the resort look is the young occupant's surfboard against one wall, while a study desk is located at the foot of the bed. Space in an instant is maximized.

The living area is tropical and organic, casual and laidback, with low-rise Japanese-style setup. Zen and contemporary, the lines are clean and made warm by infusing the room with organic elements such as sea grass and neutral colored wood. A black canvas by

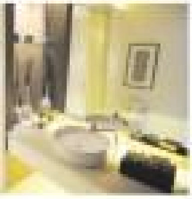
SHANGHAI CHIC. Modern furniture for this daughter's room served as study nook and display panel for the teen's bag collection.







ZEN.





t

TropicaHiving amenities and unit types

Passive Leisure Amenities:

Active Play Amenities:

Unit types:

Studio

2-Bedroom

Call DMCI Homes at **888-3333** or visit **www.dmcihomes.com**

ORGANIC.



STREAMLINED.





Call DMCI Homes at **888-3333** or visit **www.dmcihomes.com**

GLAMOUR.

Sunny way to great taste and Pinoy flavors

[illegible]

Seasonal produce

[illegible]



CASA RAP LUNCH: [illegible]



CASA RAP SINGER TABLE. [illegible]



PILLAR TABLE SETTING DETAIL: [illegible]

[illegible]

Pilar's Plants and Novelties

[illegible]

Sweeter, smaller

[illegible]

QUINTESSENTIALLY [illegible]



ENTERTAINMENT

IN THIS ISSUE



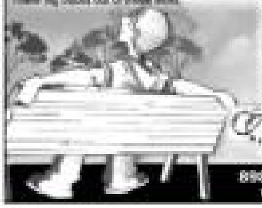
Jaclyn: We were treated like stars

By Marinel R. Cruz

JACLYN JOSE IS KEEPING HER fingers crossed ... she is among the top contenders for the Best Actress Award at the 61st Cannes International Film Festival in France, which concludes today.

"Anything is possible. It all depends on the jury," she told Inquirer Entertainment when asked about her reaction to the strong—negative and positive—reviews that "Serbis"

JACLYN/J8



Yam's 'Echo' gets first good review in Cannes

Meanwhile, brouhaha over Dante's 'Serbis' provokes catty exchanges

LOS ANGELES—AFTER UNleashing mostly negative reviews on Dante Mendoza's Cannes competition entry, "Serbis," critics on the Croisette have moved on and left town by the time this column comes out. But these scathing critiques, especially the ones posted online, continue to draw comments and counter-comments, apologies and insults.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales

Critic corrected

TURN TO J4

Jaclyn: We were treated like stars



At least one

"SEX AND THE CITY" IS THE TOP CHOICE FOR SUMMER!

REPRINTED FROM

YAHOO! MOVIES REUTERS

Moviegoers Have "Sex" on the Brain: Poll

AT THE CINEMAS

Cinema
GLORIETTA 1
GLORIETTA 4
GREENBELT 1
GREENBELT 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
AYALA CENTER CEBU
MARKET! MARKET!
TRINOMA

AT THE MALLS

Yam's 'Echo' gets first good review in Cannes



Elsewhere, good news

Producers' respect

Moody piece





ENTERTAINMENT

Gabby, Claudine in new teleserye

KC and Richard hope their tandem will signal a ceasefire





'Impossible' mission accomplished



Did You Know...

Spotted:

Blunt–and brave, and brilliant

By [illegible]

Review

PROMOTER VINCE [illegible] of [illegible] said he was a bit sad about the low audience turnout. But the lucky ones who got to watch James Blunt's live performance Monday night at the Araneta Coliseum walked away in high spirits.

[illegible]

Pun performer

[illegible]

Joys, sorrows

[illegible]



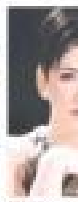




Beware of the Heartthrob

By the Inquirer Entertainment Staff

HAS-BEEN HEARTTHROB has found a lucrative sideline. HH has put himself on the market, offering "services" to gay patrons for P50,000. [illegible]



Rushes Sunday

No to 12 steps

[illegible]

Following shows

[illegible]

Bipolar Star

[illegible]

Real reason

[illegible]

Top of the tabloids

[illegible]

Whatsitso!

[illegible]

Whatsmeal

[illegible]

Killer threats

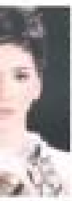
[illegible]

True hopes!

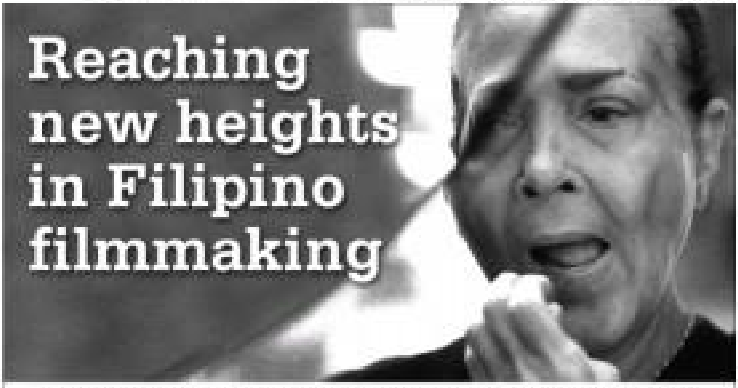
[illegible]



be 'Hulidap
ob' racket







A Filipino film competes for the prestigious Palme D'Or Award in Cannes after 24 years

Dante Mendoza's **Serbis** made its way to the prestigious **Cannes International Film Festival.**



Tales of abuse and survival in Jordan, tonight



DOCU scene at the Philippine Overseas Labor Office, Jordan.

[illegible]